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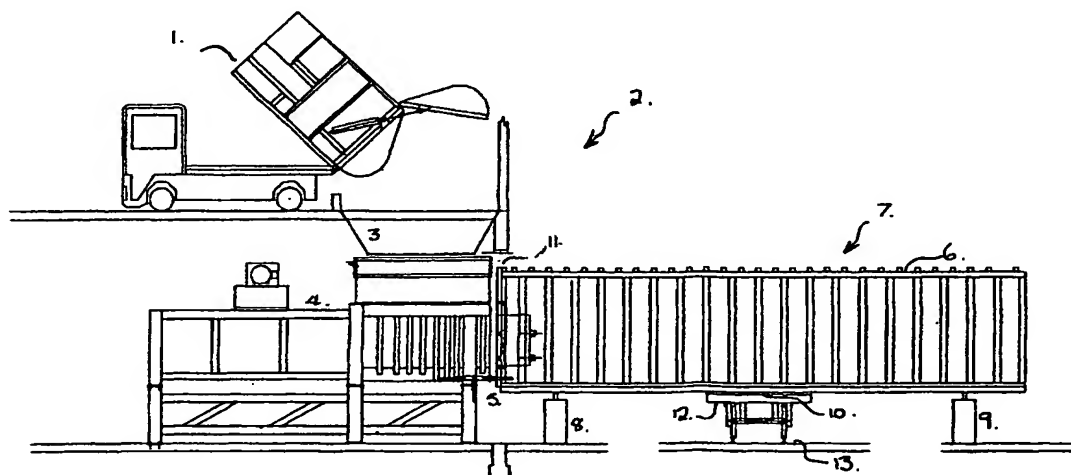
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(54) Title: **MATERIALS HANDLING SYSTEM**



(57) Abstract: A rail car (17) having a chassis (12) adapted to travel on a track (13); A longitudinal extending container (6) for compacted material, the container (6) having a closeable opening (11) for loading or unloading material through at least one longitudinal end thereof, and means to enable interconnected displacement of the container (6) relative to the chassis (12) to permit in situ loading via the closeable opening (11); a loading means (4) at a material collection point for loading material into the container (6) through the opening (11); a track (13) for the rail car (7) extending from the collection point to a remote distribution point; and an unloading means (15) at the distribution point for unloading material from the container (6) through the opening (11); wherein, The container (6) is displaced relative to the chassis (12) to operatively engage the loading means (4) and again when unloading the material.

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